

## 1830

### **Object:** *1830 Enumeration Schedule*

With the first census in 1790, US Marshals and assistant marshals taking the census used whatever materials they had on hand in order to take and record the census based on the [questions decided on by Congress](#). This changed in [1830](#), when census marshals first used uniform printed schedules sent from census headquarters. Because federal census clerks did not have to sort through a huge variety of schedules in 1830, they were able to tabulate census results more efficiently. Additionally, in order to save time and money, Congress decided that the [1830 Census](#) would only ask about the population and not included questions about agriculture and manufactures from previous censuses.

In 1790, when the census only consisted of five questions, Congress decided each individual question and assigned duties to the census marshals in one of their first Acts of Congress. In [1840](#), as the census expanded with inquiries into [agriculture and industry](#), Congress decided the subjects that required census data and census officials constructed the questions and wording that would provide this information. These forms, however, became unwieldy due to the number of questions asked, which in turn increased the mistakes made by the census takers (U.S. marshals). In [1850](#), Census Office remedied this with the introduction of [six separate schedules](#).

Following the Civil War, which curtailed the size of the final report on the [1860 Census](#), the size and scope of the census schedules continued to expand throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The [1870 Census](#) included five schedules for [General Population, Mortality, Agriculture, Products of Industry, and Social Statistics](#). The [1880 Census](#) expanded even further with Congress to the Census Superintendent to create as many schedules as needed to cover various industries and [expanded queries](#) into railway companies, telegraph operations, insurance companies, as well as on Alaska and American Indians. The [1890 questionnaire](#) retained almost all of the inquiries from the 1880 census and included a greater number of subjects than any previous census and more than would be included in those immediately following. [New entries](#) included questions about ownership and indebtedness of farms and homes; the names, as well as units served in, length of service and residences of surviving Union soldiers and sailors and the names of the widows of those who had died.

In the act authorizing the [1900 census](#), Congress limited the [main census content](#) to questions dealing with population, mortality, agriculture, and manufacturing with special census agents assigned to collect statistics relating to incidents of deafness, blindness, insanity, juvenile delinquency, as well as on religious bodies, utilities, mining, and transportation, among others. These statistics were to be collected following the completion of the regular census, with the reports to be published by [June 30, 1902](#). The following day, on July 1, 1902, the Census Bureau officially opened its doors as a permanent agency, and would soon expand to surveys beyond a decennial timeframe. Several subjects previously covered by the decennial census, like industry, economics and agriculture, began being taken separately from the decennial census at different intervals, while the decennial census added a separate questionnaire for housing questions in [1940](#). As the United States changed, so too did several of the questions, adding questions relating to radio, television, and the internet.

Starting in [1954](#), the Census Bureau followed the parameters of Title 13 of the United States Code. Title 13 requires that the Secretary of Commerce submit the subjects of the census to Congress three years ahead of time, and the questions two years ahead of time, with provisions for late additions based on the needs of Congress and other federal agencies.

**Final population count: 12,860,702**